

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 053991

R 040830Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9458

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

R TP/AMEMBASSY TAIPEI 6017

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CMUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1244

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA

SUBJ: PEKING ATTACK ON RIGHTISTS IN JAPAN

1. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY FEB. 2 ATTACK ON THE RIGHT-WING SEIRANKAI GROUP IS THE FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT FROM PEKING ON JAPANESE MILITARISM SINCE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1972/2 (ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE PRESS, LIAO CHENG-CHIH ALSO RECENTLY CRITICIZED SEIRANKAI IN DISCUSSIONS WITH A JSP DELEGATION.) THE ARTICLE STRESSES THAT ONLY "A SMALL HANDFUL" IN JAPAN ARE INVOLVED IN THIS "TINY GANG" WHICH ALLEGEDLY PREACHES SEIZURE OF TAIWAN AND REVIVAL OF JAPANESE MILITARISM AND THE "CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE."

2. THE AUTHOR MAKES CLEAR THAT ONLY A "SMALL NUMBER" OF LDP MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED, AND STRESSES THAT SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING STEADILY AND THAT THE "HANDFUL OF JAPANESE FASCISTS" CANNOT UNDERMINE THIS TREND. NEVERTHELESS THE ARTICLE UNDERSCORES THE "EVIDENT FACT THAT A MILITARIST FORCE EXISTS IN
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JAPAN" AND THAT THESE ELEMENTS ARE "NOW AGAIN REARING THEIR

UGLY HEADS, "PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION FOR A FASCIST MILITARY
COUP D'ETAT."

3. AN NCNA ARTICLE OF FEB. 1 ON THE SAME SUBJECT ACCUSED THE

SEIRANKAI OF "EXPLOITING THE WORSENING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL CRISIS IN JAPAN." THE ATTACK ON SEIRANKAI THUS REFLECTS
PEKING'S VIEW THAT A SERIOUS CRISIS IN JAPANESE SOCIETY IN THE
NEAR TERM IS AT LEAST A VAGUE POSSIBILITY, AND THAT IF IT OCCURS,
IT IS MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO A RIGHTIST RATHER THAN A LEFTIST
REACTION. IN THE MORE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT, PEKING MAY ALSO EXPECT
THAT ITS BLAST AT THE SEIRANKAI WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT
ON THE CURRENT STRUGGLE WITHIN THE LDP ON THE PRC-JAPANESE AIR
AGREEMENT ISSUE.
ALLEN

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